

REMARKS

I. Formalities

Claims 1-6 and 8-26 remain in the subject patent application. Claims 1, 8, and 22 are amended and claim 7 is canceled herein. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 22 can be found at least in FIG. 1 and in originally-filed claims 7 and 8. Claim 8 was amended solely by deleting the portion of claim 8 that was added to claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is added herein.

II. Response to the 35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0009920A1 to Wijma et al. (hereinafter “Wijma”). These rejections are respectfully traversed in view of the remarks made below.

Anticipation requires each element of a claimed invention to be disclosed in a single reference. Disclosure cannot be predicated on teachings in a reference that are vague or based upon conjecture. It is respectfully submitted that silence in a reference is not a proper substitute for an adequate disclosure of facts from which a conclusion of anticipation may justifiably follow. A proper anticipation rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 requires that each element of a claimed invention be disclosed in a single reference having the same elements, united in the same way, and performing the same function.

A. Remarks Directed to Claim 1

Claim 1 discloses an electrical connector comprising a housing and a light source. Claim 1 has been amended herein to require that the light source be entirely contained within the housing. Wijma does not show or disclose this limitation. The electrical connector disclosed by Wijma is an appliance plug capable of being inserted into a cavity in the housing of an electrical appliance, and does not contain a light source at all. The only light source disclosed in the Wijma application is one that is contained within, and that is physically and electrically coupled to, the electrical appliance.

Claim 1 is further amended herein to require that the electrical connector comprise a connector tip partially enclosed within the housing and having a portion extending from the housing. Wijma fails to show or disclose this limitation. FIG. 2 of Wijma clearly shows the electrical connector to be a female connector, having no connector tip or other feature (other than electrical connection cord 2) that extends from the housing of the electrical connector. Accordingly, the electrical connector is designed to be inserted into a cavity in the housing of an electrical appliance, as explained above and as shown in FIG. 3.

Based on the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 1 is not anticipated by the cited reference. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of amended claim 1 be withdrawn.

B. Remarks Directed to Claims 2-6

Dependent claims must be construed to include all of the limitations of the claims from which they depend, as required by 37 C.F.R. 1.75(c) and M.P.E.P. 608.01(n). Therefore, claims 2-6, which depend from amended claim 1, are also not shown or disclosed by Wijma for at least the same reasons as listed earlier for amended claim 1, and claims 2-6 should be allowed for at least those same reasons. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 2-6 be withdrawn.

III. Response to the 35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

Claims 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Wijma. Claims 1, 7, and 10-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2004/0042735A1 to Ma (hereinafter “Ma”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,089,893 to Yu et al. (hereinafter “Yu”). These rejections are respectfully traversed in view of the remarks made below.

A. Remarks Directed to Claims 8 and 9

Because claims 8 and 9 depend from amended claim 1, amended claim 1 will be addressed first in these remarks. It was shown above that Wijma fails to show or disclose at least: (1) the limitation that the light source be entirely contained within the housing; and (2) the limitation that the electrical connector comprise a connector tip partially enclosed within the housing and having a portion extending from the housing, both of which limitations are in amended claim 1. It is now respectfully asserted that Wijma likewise fails to teach or suggest at least the stated limitations of amended claim 1, as further discussed below.

Wijma fails to teach or suggest the limitation that the light source be contained entirely within the housing. The Wijma light source only comes into contact with the electrical connector when the electrical connector is inserted into the cavity of the electrical appliance. Indeed, the electrical connector of Wijma is not capable of accommodating a light source in its interior because the electrical connector has no interior cavity, and because all of the wiring and other supporting structure for a light source is contained only within the housing of the electrical appliance, and not the electrical connector. Accordingly, the electrical connector of Wijma would have to be entirely redesigned, and sweeping changes would have to be made to its structure, before it would be able to accommodate an entirely-contained light source. Such sweeping changes are neither taught nor suggested, and no advantages of such changes are touched upon in any way in Wijma, thus making a 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection inappropriate for amended claim 1.

Wijma also fails to teach or suggest the limitation that the electrical connector comprise a connector tip partially enclosed within the housing and having a portion extending from the housing. As explained above, the electrical connector of Wijma comprises a female connector. Nothing in Wijma suggests that it would be advantageous to replace the female connector with a male connector tip. In fact, Wijma is entirely silent on this point.

The foregoing remarks show that amended claim 1 is not taught or suggested by Wijma. As stated above, dependent claims must be construed to include all of the limitations of the claims from which they depend, as required by 37 C.F.R. 1.75(c) and M.P.E.P. 608.01(n). Therefore, claims 8 and 9, which depend from amended claim 1, are also not taught or suggested

by Wijma for at least the same reasons as listed earlier for amended claim 1, and claims 8 and 9 should be allowed for at least those same reasons.

Further with respect to claim 8, it is respectfully submitted that the concept and the advantages of providing a plurality of wires for the particular connector shown in Wijma are not well known or expected in the art. The Wijma connector is designed to work with an electrical appliance, such as a razor, that already contains a light source inside of its housing, and thus there is no need, stated or implied, for the Wijma connector to contain an additional light source. Such an additional light source would be redundant, inefficient, and unnecessary, and its presence therefore would not be expected.

Additionally, it is respectfully pointed out that the recitation “the connector tip is selected from the group consisting of a universal serial bus connector tip and a firewire connector tip” is not a recitation with respect to the manner in which the claimed apparatus is intended to be employed. Instead, the recitation is a structural limitation requiring the connector tip to be either a connector tip capable of being inserted into a USB port or a connector tip capable of being inserted into a firewire port. Such ports will only admit the insertion of connector tips of specific dimensions and specifications. Accordingly, limiting the connector tip one of a USB connector tip and a firewire connector tip is a clear limitation on the structure of the electrical connector, and thus should be given the significant patentable weight afforded to structural limitations.

Based on the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 8 and 9 are not made obvious by the cited reference, and should be allowed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 8 and 9 be withdrawn.

B. Remarks Directed to Claim 1

Claim 1 has been amended herein by incorporating into claim 1 the limitations of claim 7. Accordingly, amended claim 1 requires that the housing have a surface comprising a first side, a second side substantially opposite the first side, a third side extending between the first side and the second side, and a fourth side substantially opposite the third side and extending between the first side and the second side. Amended claim 1 further requires that the first side and the second side form the first portion of the surface, through which a first amount of light from the light

source passes, and that the third side and the fourth side form the second portion, through which a second amount of light from the light source passes, where the second amount of light is different from the first amount of light.

Nothing in Ma nor Yu, nor in the combination of Ma and Yu, teaches or suggests an electrical connector as claimed in amended claim 1, in which a first pair of opposing sides of the connector admit the passage of a first amount of light and a second pair of opposing sides of the connector admit the passage of a second and different amount of light.

The Office Action admits that Ma does not disclose the stated limitation. It will now be explained that Yu also fails to disclose the stated limitation, and that, accordingly, the combination of Ma and Yu fails to teach or suggest the stated limitation, thus making the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection inappropriate.

The entire disclosure of Yu with respect to the passage of differing light levels through different portions of the electrical connector is confined to column 3, lines 15-22 and to FIG. 6. That disclosure is limited to a discussion and a depiction of a two-dimensional face plate having two windows of transparent or translucent material surrounded by a main portion formed of opaque or translucent material. The two windows surround the apertures through which the blades of an electrical plug may be inserted through the faceplate. Accordingly, Yu discloses a structure that allows differing light levels to pass through different regions on a single surface of an illuminated object, and the regions allowing the passage of a greater amount of light are adjacent to certain features on the single surface that may advantageously be highlighted. In contrast, amended claim 1 requires that the portion admitting the passage of the greater amount of light comprise at least parts of at least two opposing sides of the illuminated object, and that the portion admitting the passage of the lesser amount of light comprise at least parts of at least two different opposing sides of the illuminated object.

To summarize the foregoing, Yu discloses an increased light passage level adjacent to two important features on a single surface of a two-dimensional faceplate. It would not have been obvious to extend or distort that disclosure to motivate the construction of a product having a first pair of opposing sides that admit the passage of a first amount of light, and having a second pair of opposing sides that admit the passage of a second and different amount of light.

Based on the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 1 is not made obvious by the cited references, and should therefore be allowed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection of amended claim 1 be withdrawn.

C. Remarks Directed to Claim 7

Claim 7 has been canceled herein. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection of claim 7 is no longer applicable.

D. Remarks Directed to Claim 10

The following remarks directed to claim 10 are substantially similar to the remarks made above with respect to the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection of claim 1. For the convenience of the examiner, the remarks are again set out in full below, notwithstanding the fact that to do so may be somewhat repetitive.

Claim 10 requires that the housing have a surface comprising a first side, a second side substantially opposite the first side, a third side extending between the first side and the second side, and a fourth side substantially opposite the third side and extending between the first side and the second side. Claim 10 further requires that the first side and the second side form the first portion of the surface, through which a first amount of light from the light source passes, and that the third side and the fourth side form the second portion, through which a second amount of light from the light source passes, where the second amount of light is different from the first amount of light.

Nothing in Ma nor Yu, nor in the combination of Ma and Yu, teaches or suggests an electrical connector as claimed in claim 10, in which a first pair of opposing sides of the connector admit the passage of a first amount of light and a second pair of opposing sides of the connector admit the passage of a second and different amount of light.

The Office Action admits that Ma does not disclose the stated limitation. It will now be explained that Yu also fails to disclose the stated limitation, and that, accordingly, the combination of Ma and Yu fails to teach or suggest the stated limitation, thus making the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection inappropriate.

The entire disclosure of Yu with respect to the passage of differing light levels through different portions of the electrical connector is confined to column 3, lines 15-22 and to FIG. 6. That disclosure is limited to a discussion and a depiction of a two-dimensional face plate having two windows of transparent or translucent material surrounded by a main portion formed of opaque or translucent material. The two windows surround the apertures through which the blades of an electrical plug may be inserted through the faceplate.

Accordingly, Yu discloses a structure that allows differing light levels to pass through different regions on a single surface of an illuminated object, and the regions allowing the passage of a greater amount of light are next to certain features on the single surface that it may be desirable to highlight. In contrast, claim 10 requires that the portion admitting the passage of the greater amount of light comprise at least parts of at least two opposing sides of the illuminated object, and that the portion admitting the passage of the lesser amount of light comprise at least parts of at least two different opposing sides of the illuminated object.

To summarize the foregoing, Yu discloses an increased light passage level adjacent to two important features on a single surface of a two-dimensional faceplate. It would not have been obvious to extend or distort that disclosure to motivate the construction of a product having a first pair of opposing sides that admit the passage of a first amount of light, and having a second pair of opposing sides that admit the passage of a second and different amount of light.

Based on the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claim 10 is not made obvious by the cited references, and should be allowed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection of claim 10 be withdrawn.

E. Remarks Directed to Claims 11-17

Dependent claims must be construed to include all of the limitations of the claims from which they depend, as required by 37 C.F.R. 1.75(c) and M.P.E.P. 608.01(n). Therefore, claims 11-17, which depend from claim 10, are also not made obvious by Ma or Yu, or by their combination, for at least the same reasons as listed earlier for claim 10, and claims 11-17 should be allowed for at least those same reasons.

F. Remarks Directed to Claim 18

The following remarks directed to claim 18 are substantially similar to the remarks made above with respect to the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejections of claims 1 and 10. For the convenience of the examiner, the remarks are again set out in full below, notwithstanding the fact that to do so may be somewhat repetitive.

Claim 18 requires that the housing have a surface comprising a first side, a second side substantially opposite the first side, a third side extending between the first side and the second side, and a fourth side substantially opposite the third side and extending between the first side and the second side. Claim 18 further requires that the first side and the second side form the first portion of the surface, through which a first amount of light from the light source passes, and that the third side and the fourth side form the second portion, through which a second amount of light from the light source passes, where the second amount of light is different from the first amount of light.

Nothing in Ma nor Yu, nor in the combination of Ma and Yu, teaches or suggests an electrical connector as claimed in claim 18, in which a first pair of opposing sides of the connector admit the passage of a first amount of light and a second pair of opposing sides of the connector admit the passage of a second and different amount of light.

The Office Action admits that Ma does not disclose the stated limitation. It will now be explained that Yu also fails to disclose the stated limitation, and that, accordingly, the combination of Ma and Yu fails to teach or suggest the stated limitation, thus making the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection inappropriate.

The entire disclosure of Yu with respect to the passage of differing light levels through different portions of the electrical connector is confined to column 3, lines 15-22 and to FIG. 6. That disclosure is limited to a discussion and a depiction of a two-dimensional face plate having two windows of transparent or translucent material surrounded by a main portion formed of opaque or translucent material. The two windows surround the apertures through which the blades of an electrical plug may be inserted through the faceplate.

Accordingly, Yu discloses a structure that allows differing light levels to pass through different regions on a single surface of an illuminated object, and the regions allowing the passage of a greater amount of light are next to certain features on the single surface that it may be desirable to highlight. In contrast, claim 18 requires that the portion admitting the passage of the greater amount of light comprise at least parts of at least two opposing sides of the illuminated object, and that the portion admitting the passage of the lesser amount of light comprise at least parts of at least two different opposing sides of the illuminated object.

To summarize the foregoing, Yu discloses an increased light passage level adjacent to two important features on a single surface of a two-dimensional faceplate. It would not have been obvious to extend or distort that disclosure to motivate the construction of a product having a first pair of opposing sides that admit the passage of a first amount of light, and having a second pair of opposing sides that admit the passage of a second and different amount of light.

Based on the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claim 18 is not made obvious by the cited references, and should be allowed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection of claim 18 be withdrawn.

G. Remarks Directed to Claims 19-21

Dependent claims must be construed to include all of the limitations of the claims from which they depend, as required by 37 C.F.R. 1.75(c) and M.P.E.P. 608.01(n). Therefore, claims 19-21, which depend from claim 18, are also not shown or disclosed by Ma or Yu, or by their combination, for at least the same reasons as listed earlier for claim 18, and claims 19-21 should be allowed for at least those same reasons.

H. Remarks Directed to Claims 22-26

Both Ma and Yu are silent with respect to the manufacture of the products they disclose. Even if Ma and/or Yu did address such manufacture, the references would not disclose the limitations of claim 22 as that claim has been amended herein. Claim 22 has been amended to require that the housing have a surface comprising a first side, a second side substantially opposite the first side, a third side extending between the first side and the second side, and a fourth side substantially opposite the third side and extending between the first side and the

second side, and further amended to require that the first side and the second side form the first portion of the surface, through which a first amount of light from the light source passes, and that the third side and the fourth side form the second portion, through which a second amount of light from the light source passes, where the second amount of light is different from the first amount of light.

As discussed above in connection with amended claim 1 and with claims 10 and 18, neither Ma nor Yu, nor the combination of Ma and Yu, teach or suggest the stated limitations. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 22 is not made obvious by the cited references, and should be allowed. Applicants respectfully request therefore that the rejection of claim 22 be withdrawn.

Dependent claims must be construed to include all of the limitations of the claims from which they depend, as required by 37 C.F.R. 1.75(c) and M.P.E.P. 608.01(n). Therefore, claims 23-36, which depend from amended claim 22, are also not shown or disclosed by the cited references for at least the same reasons as listed earlier for amended claim 22, and claims 23-26 should be allowed for at least those same reasons.

CONCLUSION

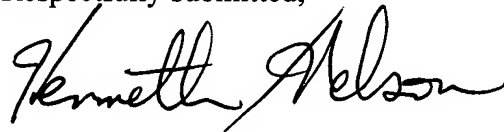
Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. In light of the amendments and remarks set forth above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all of the pending claims.

No fees are believed to be due in connection with this Response to Office Action. However, the Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees necessitated by this Response to Office Action, or credit any overpayment, to Account No. 02-4467.

If there are matters that can be discussed by telephone to further the prosecution of this application, Applicants invite Examiner Ta to call the undersigned attorney at the Examiner's convenience.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth Nelson", written over a horizontal line.

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CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.10.

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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